

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08522 081524Z  
ACTION ARA-15

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R 072214Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9952  
INFO USDA, WASHDC

UNCLAS BOGOTA 8522

FOR: PR (BOBBY) SMITH, ASST. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CO

SUBJ: INSTITUTO COLOMBIANO AGROPECUARIO-U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE (ICA-USDA) COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR ERADICATION  
OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN THE CHOCO AND URABA  
AREAS OF COLOMBIA

1. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE (ICA-USDA) COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAM WHICH STARTED IN LATE 1973, AND WHICH IS SCHEDULED  
TO TERMINATE ITS FIRST 5-YEAR PHASE ON 31 DECEMBER 1978,  
GOT OFF TO A VERY POOR START. HOWEVER, SINCE MARCH 1978,  
THE GOC HAS EXHIBITED A VERY DEFINITE AND INCREASED INTEREST  
IN THE PROGRAM. THE GOC HAS APPOINTED A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WHICH PERMITS THE PROJECT TO FUNCTION IN A VERY ACCEPTABLE  
MANNER.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL OF THE GOALS OF THE 5-YEAR PROGRAM HAVE  
BEEN MET, THE PROGRAM NOW RECEIVES FULL COOPERATION FROM ICA  
IN MOST OF THESE. THE PROGRAM IS FUNCTIONING WELL AND WILL  
BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE FMD ERADICATION IN THE PROJECT AREA  
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS PROVIDED THE PROGRAM CAN  
BE FINANCED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1978.

3. THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY WILL PROBABLY BE BUILT SOMEDAY  
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EVEN THOUGH NO FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. AN ESSENTIAL  
PREREQUISITE TO ITS CONSTRUCTION WILL BE FMD ERADICATION  
FROM THE NORTH OF COLOMBIA. TO TERMINATE THE CURRENT  
PROJECT IN MI-STREAM, AND RENEW IT AT SOME FUTURE DATE,  
WOULD BE A COMPLETE WASTE OF THE FUNDS ALREADY EXPENDED  
(US \$7.8 MILLION) ALSO, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE  
THE COOPERATION OF THE CATTLEMEN IN THE AREA IN THE FUTURE

IF SUCCESSES ALREADY ACHIEVED ARE ALLOWED TO DISSIPATE  
AND FMD BECOMES WIDESPREAD AGAIN THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

4. EXTENSION OF THE ICA-USDA COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, SO THAT IT  
CAN COMPLETE ERADICATION OF FMD IN THE CHOCO AND URABA,  
I BELIEVE, SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE AND BY THE USDA.

5. DURING THIS WEEK THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, (TURBAY  
AYALA) CHARGED HIS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING WITH REVIEWING  
THE ICA-USDA PROGRAM WITH THE SPECIFIC GOAL OF ASSISTING IT  
TO ACHIEVE FMD ERADICATION. I BELIEVE THAT, AS A RESULT  
OF THIS INTEREST, WE CAN EXPECT A VERY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE  
AND POSSIBLE COLOMBIAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROJECT  
IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

6. I WILL BE MAKING MY FIRST COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER  
OF AGRICULTURE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ANY WORD I COULD HAVE  
BEFORE THAT EVENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
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